

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1474/04
by Margrietus van den Berg (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Liberalisation of public transport

The Netherlands Government has for some time been forcing municipal and provincial authorities to liberalise their public transport. This week the Netherlands Parliament at least postponed the transition to semi-autonomous status by two years, until 2007. In the three largest cities, the tender procedure has been postponed until 2009.

The European Parliament recently determined that the European Union could not compel municipal and provincial authorities to liberalise. Each town or province may decide for itself what is best.

The residents of Amsterdam have decided in a referendum not to put their municipal transport company up for sale on the open market but that their municipal authority should retain control over it.

1. Does the Commission agree that Amsterdam is entitled to, and indeed must, respect the decision of its residents?
2. Does the Commission agree that the Netherlands Government should also respect this line?
3. Does the Commission agree that 'Brussels' does not in any way impede this?